

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Unquestionably it will interfere.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes. Again unquestionably it will interfere. As we approach an age where we can make home movies at ease, it will force me to use "approved" software to copy and edit DTV content on my home network. Open source provides (or will provide) significant alternatives

to help users with DTV type of editing, and it by definition will be illegal, since the user can easily modify the software.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

It requires that when I purchase a new DTV device that is compliant with the broadcast flag strategy. And that strategy is so technologically deficient, they may have to make it illegal to use my standard VCR device.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes. How can alternate options to the broadcast flag even be developed if the first prototype option is technically illegal?

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Huge. This will drive up costs anywhere from 100% to 500%. This, of course is just my opinion. But this would create a monopoly on technology options, and monopolies are never good for society unless regulated.

Other Comments:

I have a HUGE amount of sympathy for the creators of content. The Copyright laws serve a valuable purpose to society, and we need to enforce those laws.

Perhaps the simple answer to this problem is to increase the penalties for clear violations of copyright law -- perhaps make it a felony? I don't know. But this broadcast flag strategy is obviously not the answer.